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SOURCE Newspapers as indicated.

POST OFFICE PROVIDES INFORMATION SERVICE

SPECIAL SERVICE BY REGISTERED MAIL -- Shanghai Ta Kung Pao, 7 May 50

The information collection service of the Chinese postal system is a direct and real service to the public. Any one who desires information on trade, industrial production, goods, prices, markets, etc. may present his request in detailed form to his local post office. The local post office will send the request by registered mail to the post office at the point from which the client wishes the information. The post office there will secure the information and return it to the post office from which the request came by registered mail. The local office will deliver the information to the inquirer. The whole transaction usually requires but a few days.

A typical instance of the service is the case of Hsieh of Hunan who placed a request with the post office at Lan-t'ien, Hunan, for information concerning small-size Diesel engines and small-scale paper-manufacturing machines. He wanted to know prices, weights, portability, fuel consumption, production capacity, number of persons required to operate, etc. The Lan-t'ien post office passed the request to the Public Service Department of the Shanghai Postal Administration. The department obtained the detailed answers from the manufacturers and sent them back to the Lan-t'ien post office which delivered them to Hsieh.

Types of information which the post office at present is prepared to collect and supply include the following:

1. Industrial, agricultural, and commercial trends.
2. Prices of industrial and agricultural products and marketing possibilities.
3. Present conditions in cultural and educational institutions.
4. Conditions in communications; train and boat ticket prices.

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5. Present situation of friends and relatives; changes of address.
6. Other phases of social conditions not affecting political or military secrets.

Persons desiring to use this service should apply to their local post office for the information request blank, fill it out, and pay the equivalent of the cost of three registered letters. This is to cover the cost of sending for the information, returning it, and a service charge equivalent to the cost of one registered letter.

Telegraphic service is available to those willing to pay the two-way charges for the telegraph service in addition to the service charge of the cost of one registered letter. If the inquirer is not fully satisfied with the reply he gets, the office will repeat the inquiry on the particular items about which further information is desired once without extra charge.

The post office depends upon its network of postal employees and their detailed knowledge of local conditions together with their avowed purpose of rendering the greatest possible service to the public to make possible this type of public service.

PEIPING ORDERS CHANGE IN TELEGRAPH RATES -- Shanghai Hsin-wen Jih-pao, 3 May 50

Shanghai -- The Shanghai Telegraph Office put into effect, on 2 May 1950, a new scale of charges in conformity with the Central government's directive concerning uniform charges throughout the whole country. This scale of charges divides domestic telegrams into two classes: (1) messages between two points within the same province or between two points less than 100 kilometers apart regardless of provincial boundaries; (2) all interprovince messages except those between two points less than 100 kilometers apart.

Based on the official rate for Victory Bonds, in terms of people's notes, for the 10-day period beginning 2 May 1950, the charge for one basic service unit is 1,700 yuan. But on intraprovince messages the charge per unit is 0.8 of 1,700 yuan, while for the interprovince messages it is 1.2 of 1,700 yuan. This works out at 1,360 yuan per word for ordinary private intraprovince messages, and 2,040 yuan per word for ordinary private interprovince messages. Urgent messages are to be charged double, 2,720 yuan and 4,080 yuan, respectively; and especially urgent messages, 2½ times the ordinary rate, 5,440 yuan and 8,160 yuan, respectively. Night-letter telegrams are to be one half the regular daytime rates. If the messages are in a foreign language, the rates per word are double those given above.

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